

**COPY**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

REFNUM 86001253  
For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

*Listed 06/04/86*

**1. Name**

historic Woodland Cemetery

and or common -- same as above--

**2. Location**

street & number 6901 Woodland Avenue

\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Cleveland

\_\_\_ vicinity of 21st Congressional District, Louis Stokes

state Ohio

code 039

county Cuyahoga

code 035

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<i>N/A</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Cemetery

**4. Owner of Property**

name City of Cleveland, Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Properties

street & number W. Laurence Bicking (Director) 1220 East 6th Street

city, town Cleveland

\_\_\_ vicinity of

state Ohio 44114

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cuyahoga County Recorder, (Deeds, Vol 53, pp. 190-191)

street & number 1219 Ontario

city, town Cleveland

state Ohio

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title -- Woodland Cemetery Gate, ONLY--  
Ohio Historic Inventory

has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes  no

date 11/74

\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Ohio Historical Center

city, town Columbus

state Ohio

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Woodland Cemetery, maintaining practically all of its original 60 acres, is a rectangle, having these dimensions; bounded by these city streets: south, 1400 feet along Woodland Avenue; north 1400 feet along Quincy Avenue; east 2000 feet along East 71st Street; west 2000 feet along East 66th Street. A recently installed chain link fence (1984) with several pedestrian gates at appropriate places on the numbered streets and with one auto entrance off Quincy Avenue, secures the perimeter on three sides. The main Woodland Avenue side retains the ornamental iron picket fence, circa 1877, with carved sandstone corner posts. The neighborhood, about 3.5 miles southeast of Cleveland's central business district and designated in the 1960's and 1970's as the East and West Central Urban Renewal Project Area, is a mixture of low rise public housing, vacant lots, single and multiple family housing, and light commercial and industrial land uses. Directly south of Woodland Cemetery, on Woodland Avenue, is Roman Catholic St. John Cemetery (1855).

The main entrance fronting Woodland Avenue is an elaborate Gothic style stone gateway (chiefly 1870, with 1875 addition) whose arch over the roadway links the unused waiting room on the west side with the seldom used office on the east side. In Cleveland's Annual Report, 1869-1871, the Board of Cemetery trustees' report identifies the architect as Joseph Ireland, a New Yorker, who spent twenty years (1865-1885) in the Western Reserve. In the East, Ireland had worked in the office of R.G. Hatfield who specialized in institutional buildings. In the West, Ireland continued in that vein, making substantial contributions to the business and public architecture of the area, e.g. Geauga County Courthouse (1860-1870). Unfortunately, his design is now rapidly deteriorating. The main gate has been permanently closed to traffic so the grounds must be entered via Quincy Avenue. The exterior stone facing on the waiting room's west wall has collapsed. Fire damage to the wooden superstructure has not been repaired. Untended water and winter weather damage is evident. Apparently, the city is contemplating tearing the structure down. No other common structures remain on the cemetery grounds.

Woodland's design exhibits at least three distinct platting styles. The first 20 acres fronting Woodland Avenue, lots 1 to 34, retain much of the mannered circular design, in roadways, pathways, and grave rows, evident in landscape gardener Howard Daniels' original design. Although there has not been found a rendering of Daniels' actual design, it may be considered that the 1874 Cuyahoga County atlas outline is very close to the original. In successive atlas drawings there is evidence that the outer lots of the initial platting were altered in later years to provide more grave space. Still, the features of the 1852-53 scheme basically remain. The 1874 atlas shows about half of the grounds in a formal curvilinear style; the other half is unplatted. The northern half of the cemetery, platted at various times between 1875 and the early years of the 20th century, has two different schemes. A less formal attempt was made to retain the curvilinear theme in lots 35 through, though not consecutively, 95. A little over half of the northeast quadrant, platted in straight sections identified both numerically and alpha-numerically,

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Indicates an abandonment of even a semblance of continuing the original curvilinear design.

Today, Woodland's landscape is grass and trees, the prevailing species being sycamore, although a few other deciduous and coniferous types remain. Past cemetery trustees' reports indicate the varieties of species, such as maples and arborvitae. While the grass is cut and dead wood removed on a regular schedule, it is obvious that the cemetery is not maintained as well as it might be or was when it was a fashionable place to ramble. Still a fair number of graves show, by seasonal flowers, individual attention.

The formal curving roads and pathways of the oldest sections, the feature which sets Woodland apart from Cleveland's other public and private cemeteries, are now primarily in grass. They can be distinguished by someone on site and they may be driven with caution because they are not maintained for regular auto traffic. This state of affairs contrasts with the apparent good condition of the major roads as evidenced by a 1920's aerial photograph. Main Drive, which bisects Woodland's length, is paved and maintained, the only road to be so cared for now.

In the past the cemetery had some additional features. The Annual Reports and popular 19th century historical narratives record the presence, at one time or another, of a chapel (1880-1951), a receiving vault, at least two ornamental fountains (1887), a superintendent's house, and various utility buildings. The chapel occupied a circular space in the middle of the cemetery and Main Drive. One fountain was placed in the smaller Main Drive circle mid-way between the gateway and the chapel. Written descriptions from the 19th century testify to the presence of entrances which no longer exist. Also, remains of sidewalk slabs can be found in older sections.

Woodland's monuments, simple and elaborate, show the succession of tastes and groups comprising the Cleveland community. The earlier sections developed through the 1870's and 1880's maintain evidence of the "rural cemetery" style's propensity to demarcate lot lines with curbing and fencing. Many of these features have been removed but some remain. Also remaining, in poor to good condition, are a mixture of mausoleum styles ranging from functional flat roof 1860's varieties to later, more elaborate Gothic and Greek temple replicas. Because Woodland was Cleveland's main cemetery during and after the Civil War, it is the burial site for numerous white veterans, in Section 72 especially, and for a monument dedicated by General Rutherford B. Hayes in 1865, to the 7th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. The grave of at least one black Civil War veteran, William Jackson, is a military issued stone on a family plot. Tombstones in sections platted later are more modest in size and often in other languages, such as Czech or German.

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# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1852-1853 **Builder/Architect** Howard Daniels, landscape gardener

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Criteria A and C

Woodland Cemetery merits inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places by virtue of its initial design, in "rural cemetery" style by New York landscape gardener, Howard Daniels. Since Woodland was Cleveland's main public cemetery for over fifty of the city's most dynamic years, it is a repository of funerary artifacts useful in understanding the community's many ethnic groups and various cultural periods. In these areas this site meets those tests established to select properties of outstanding historic and architectural significance.

In its aesthetic Woodland has maintained the essence of the "rural cemetery" design originally planned by Howard Daniels in 1853. New sections platted late into the 19th century continued to carry out, albeit with less grace, the curvilinear patterns of the first sections. Unlike other burial grounds of this era which were done in "rural cemetery" style, grounds in Ohio and in other parts of the United States, Woodland has essentially been left alone. Some features have given way under public pressure for more grave space, but no wholesale re-designing of platted sections to meet subsequent changing taste in cemetery landscape styles has been done. The benign neglect of Woodland's public owners has left its essence intact.

It may be now forgotten but rural cemeteries stood as a kind of transition between the first raw settlement and the more refined community which saw a value in public open space, like parks. When Daniels himself, then of New York City but formerly of Cincinnati until 1851, wrote in the periodical, Horticulturist (1860), that the rural cemetery was a "peculiarly American institution" whose presence in large cities paved the way for "the next great step in rural progress....providing public Gardens and Parks for the people," he knew of what he spoke. Not only had Daniels, a solo practitioner by all accounts, designed numerous Ohio rural cemeteries during the 1840's in Cincinnati, Xenia and Columbus, but also he was talented enough to win fourth place in the famed 1858 Central Park competition. The urban gentry, who were Daniels' patrons, desired, whether under public or private ownership, the distinctive scheme of the rural cemetery, a term denoting both a style of landscape and of organization, a term used to distinguish one place of the dead from another, the simpler village and church burying grounds. Thus, the establishment of the antithetically named "rural cemetery" in an urban area indicated from the 1830's through the 1850's, that influential gentlemen were moved by an interest in horticulture and design, or perhaps merely by a desire to be fashionable. A level of community culture a cut above the essential had been reached when a rural cemetery was established.

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The important place that Woodland held in Cleveland's life for over fifty years supports these observations and those of Daniels. Woodland was, and is, a cemetery. But it has also served as a park -- a spot for "scholars of the Mayflower school" to picnic in 1859 -- for a city late in developing parks. Even today, as it is the only significant amount of green open space in its neighborhood, it is used by the area's children and adults as a place to walk in and through.

As Cleveland's chief public cemetery, and its only large one during the crucial Civil War years, Woodland served as the burying ground for several generations of prominent greater Clevelanders as well as for war casualties. In 1865 General Rutherford B. Hayes dedicated a dignified memorial column to the 7th Ohio Volunteer Infantry's dead. The most prominent war casualty, however, was the state's governor, John Brough.

Today, when that war is known through texts, the accomplishments of many are overlooked. So it is with Brough, a Democrat, whose long service to Ohio, as a member of its legislature and as auditor (1839-1845), and to the nation during the Civil War, as the state's governor, has slipped from popular memory. Nevertheless, his career has been detailed in the Dictionary of American Biography, vol. 3, pp. 94-95, and his Civil War contribution cited in James Ford Rhodes' account of the conflict. Brough's defeat of Clement Vallandigham in the 1863 gubernatorial contest is considered to have set the stage for a final Union victory since the governor led a movement to raise fresh troops for the northern cause. When Brough died in Cleveland in August, 1865, having not completed his term and having also previously announced his withdrawal from renomination for office, he was mourned by the mass of Ohio's citizens. Cleveland's city council donated the grave site on the Main drive's grand circle. The subsequently erected obelisk fails to mention this man's service to the state and nation. Formally recognizing his modest, dignified grave site would be a fitting tribute.

Since Woodland began more than 130 years ago, Cleveland itself has grown from a community of about 15,000 to a metropolis of several hundred thousand, its population swelled by diverse immigrant groups. These changes, though nominally uninterpreted in the cemetery, are nevertheless able to be discerned by those familiar with Cleveland's history. The graves of that first generation of settlers, those immigrants from Connecticut who came early to seek fortunes in real estate and commerce, are found in the older sections. Often the stones are simple, befitting a frontier place. Such is the marker for Georgiana R. Mather, wife of Samuel L. Mather, who died in 1853. Soon, simple stones gave way to functional mausoleums, some of which showed stylistic touches in the fashion of the day, e.g. Egyptian. The Burrige/Brainard structure (1860) is such an example.

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In the 1870's and 1880's although Cleveland's two most noted private cemeteries had been incorporated, Lakeview (1869) on the east and Riverside (1875) on the west side of the Cuyahoga River, Woodland still attracted those families of an earlier commercial bent. Though in poor condition now the mausoleum of Martin Bowen Scott (1801-1872), grain shipper and vice-president of the Western Reserve Historical Society (1867-1872), typifies this period. Others of note are the J.R. Sprankle Gothic Revival tomb and the miniature Greek Revival temple of William H. Brew, secretary of Younglove & Massey, an architectural iron works firm. Whole sections of solid mausoleums and curbed family lots bear witness to the success of the first and second generation of English-speaking immigrants who regarded funerary display as a necessary conclusion to life's accomplishments.

Following this period and perhaps no less successful in their own eyes were the Middle and Eastern European immigrants of the 1880's, 1890's and 1900's. Their smaller grave sites, some even today carefully and individually tended, marked their native languages or noting, in English, the country of their birth, are predominant in newer platted sections. In one area a modestly handsome monument with medallion celebrates Jacob Mueller, an immigrant who became a prominent Cleveland attorney and publisher as well as the state's lieutenant governor (1872-1874). For some of these immigrants who were Protestants or Free-Thinkers in their native, predominately Roman Catholic homelands, the public cemetery was a last, welcome resting place since their apostate status barred them from burial with their fellow countrymen.

Thus, probably inadvertently, Woodland has served for more than a century as a truly community cemetery, burying black and white, the immigrant for the East Coast or Europe, the socially prominent and the obscure, the rich and the poor. For many decades it was cared for and adorned by the city. Now that it has been superseded by a more spacious public facility, Woodland receives less yet still attentive care. It has not entirely lost the character that caused one local newspaper to describe it, in 1853, thusly, "... as beautifully prepared for a burial place as fancy and taste could desire.."

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Additional information on the career of Howard Daniels, designer of Woodland Cemetery.

Howard Daniels (1814 or 1815 to 1863 or 1864, life dates estimated from an obituary note in the February, 1864, Horticulturist, giving his age as 49 years) was a multi-talented, apparently solo, practitioner in Ohio and in New York of the design arts, especially landscape gardening and architecture. His most noted work is the Old Montgomery County Court House, (NR: 1/26/70) Dayton, Ohio, a fine example of the Greek Revival style (Henry Whitney, Biographical Dictionary American Architects (1956), p. 161; Neville H. Clouton, "the Old Montgomery County Court House, Dayton, Ohio," Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians 26, no.4 (December, 1967: 294-300). Doubtlessly, more examples, most unidentified or later modified, exist of his landscape gardening, as the profession was called before Olmsted insisted on "landscape architecture" in rural cemeteries, public parks or private estates. In Ohio rural cemeteries positively identified as Daniels' are as follows: Spring Grove, Cincinnati, 1845-1846, later re-designed by Adolph Strauch in the lawn plan style; Woodland, Xenia, 1847-1848; Green Lawn, Columbus 1849-1851; Woodland, Cleveland 1852-1853. In New York state Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse, 1859, is positively by Daniels. Others which may be by him are Woodland, Dayton, Ohio 1843; and Forest Lawn, Buffalo, New York 1849-1850. Sometimes Daniels is credited with work on the suburb of Llewellyn Park, New Jersey, but Jane B. Davies, who has researched and written about that place, can find no evidence for this. When Howard Daniels died, he was working on Druid Hill Park, Baltimore, Maryland.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Deal, Mary H. "Making Cleveland's Woodland Cemetery: A speculative Urban Saga." Journal of the Cuyahoga County Archives 3 (1985), in press.

The City of Cleveland, Annual Reports (1869-1916).

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 60 Acres

Quadrangle name Cleveland South

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000/7.5 ser

UTM References

A 

1	7	4	4	6	2	0	5	4	5	9	1	5	0	5
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

1	7	4	4	6	6	3	8	4	5	9	1	4	9	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

1	7	4	4	6	6	3	8	4	5	9	2	9	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

1	7	4	4	6	2	0	5	4	5	9	2	9	1	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

**Verbal boundary description and justification** -- from deed  
 Lots 12, 13, 14, 15, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 in the subdivision of Original  
 Lots 331 and 332, Newburgh Township, Ohio .... being 60-62/100 acres.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary H. Deal

organization

date August 16, 1985

street & number 2062 Ayers Avenue

telephone (216) 836-5488 or (513) 258-1938

city or town Akron

state Ohio 44313

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature W. Ray Mice

title SHPO

date 4/11/86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

CLEVELAND SOUTH QUADRANGLE  
 OHIO-CUYAHOGA CO  
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

4667 11 SE  
 (EAST CLEVELAND)



- Woodland Cemetery  
 Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio  
 UTM:
- A) 17 446205 4591505
  - B) 17 446638 4591490
  - C) 17 446638 4592920
  - D) 17 446205 4592910

UTM ZONE 17N, EASTING 446205, NORTHING 4592910  
 UTM ZONE 17N, EASTING 446638, NORTHING 4592920  
 UTM ZONE 17N, EASTING 446205, NORTHING 4591505  
 UTM ZONE 17N, EASTING 446638, NORTHING 4591490

enlargement of a portion of an aerial photo, copyrighted 1923 by Great Lakes Aerial Photo-  
graphic Co., by David Thum, photographer, Cuyahoga County Archives, Cleveland, Ohio, 1985

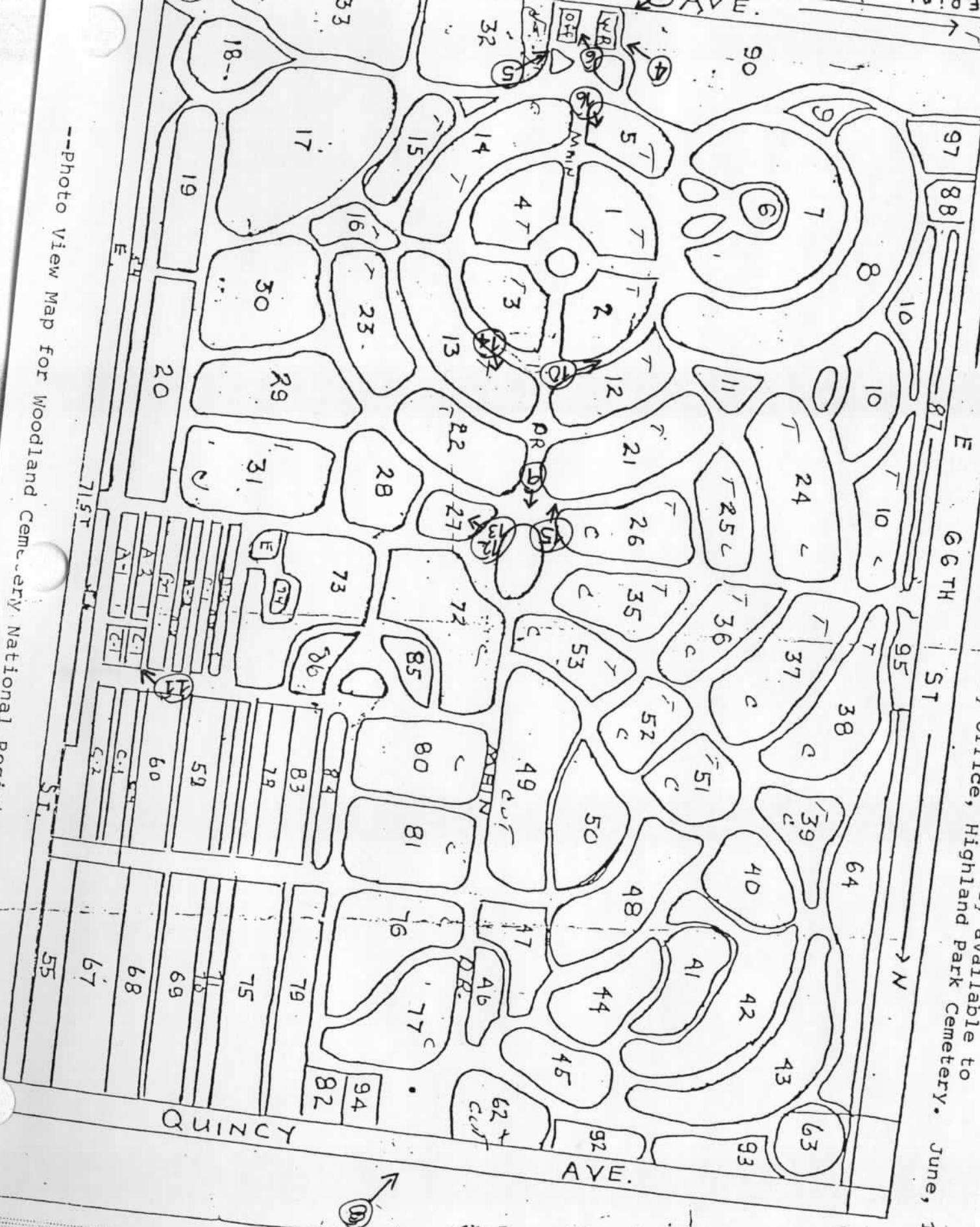
Woodland Cemetery  
Cleveland,  
Cuyahoga County  
Ohio



The rectangle with circular patterns therein is Woodland Cemetery. Directly across Woodland  
Avenue is St. John's Cemetery, the smaller rectangle with straight line pattern.



... as currently available to  
Highland Cemetery Office, Highland Park Cemetery. June, 1985



--Photo View Map for Woodland Cemetery National Register Nomination--

09/85